**GREG DE IULIO** is a senior at LSU, majoring in piano performance. He is in the studio of Dr. Willis Delony. While he is not playing piano, he enjoys watching movies and sports. He will be performing his senior piano recital on November 21 in the School of Music Recital Hall.

**MICHAEL GURT** is Paula Garvey Manship Distinguished Professor of Piano at LSU. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the Juilliard School. In 1982 he won First Prize in the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, and he was also a prize winner in international competitions in Pretoria, South Africa, and Sydney, Australia. Gurt has performed as soloist with the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Memphis Symphony, the Capetown Symphony, the China National Symphony Orchestra, and the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra in Durban, South Africa. He has made solo appearances in Alice Tully Hall in New York, Ambassador Auditorium in Los Angeles, Orchestra Hall in Detroit, City Hall in Hong Kong, the Victorian Arts Center in Melbourne, Australia, Baxter Hall in Capetown, South Africa, and the Attaturk Cultural Center in Istanbul, Turkey. Gurt has collaborated with the Takacs String Quartet, and recently performed at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville, Queensland. He has served on the juries of both the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and the New Orleans International Piano Competition, and he has recorded on the Naxos, Centaur, and Redwood labels. The Incense Merchants will be presenting a concert on November 27 at the LSU School of Music.

**JONATHAN MITCHELL** earned his bachelor’s degree from Millsaps College in 2004, where he studied piano with Lynn Raley. In 2006, under the tutelage of Michael Gurt, he received a master’s degree in piano performance from Louisiana State University. Jonathan is currently completing the PhD in Music Theory at LSU.

Originally from Houston, **AMANDA YAN** is a senior at LSU pursuing a degree in both Piano Performance and Pedagogy. She is a student of Gregory Sioles and will graduate in Spring 2012. She will be performing her senior recital next semester.

**THE INCENSE MERCHANTS** are an improvisational ensemble (or “avant/semble”) of fine art musicians, who perform with the following creed: “We have no plan, no guidelines in our music-making other than to listen intently to where the music is going and to respond (or not) with the hope of creating a beautiful piece of music, an experience, a journey.” Begun in the summer of 2009, the ensemble meets weekly to create and record free improvisations. Hailed as “sublimely mystical” for their “cohesive magic,” the Incense Merchants seek to create a cinematic fusion of genres and periods, synthesizing melodic minimalism with free-form expressionism.

**DR. BLAKE HOWE** is Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at LSU. His research, on topics ranging from Schubert to Norman Rockwell, has been published in the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, *The Journal of Musicology*, and *The Musical Quarterly*.

The **LSU Performing Arts Academy** offers an exciting new place for children and adults to learn music, dramatic arts skills and creative technology. Academy teachers are the most highly educated professionals working in their fields. To learn more and sign up for classes, visit the website at cmda.lsu.edu/PAA or call (225) 578-3230.
Silent films were never silent. On rare occasions, famous composers contributed original scores. This is the case with the two French films for today: *The Assassination of the Duke of Guise*, the first film to feature an original score composed by a major composer (Camille Saint-Saëns); and *Entr’acte*, a whimsical film punctuated by Erik Satie’s appropriately whimsical music. More typically, however, the responsibility for creating film music was left to professional accompanists, who arranged their own scores using well-known popular and classical standards. Amanda Yan and Greg De Iulio will adopt this practice, performing their own arrangements of music for two films produced by Edison Studios. For *The Cameraman’s Revenge*, a farcical tale of an insectoid love triangle, the Incense Merchants will contribute an improvisation, drawing on their synthesis of minimalist, jazz, and popular styles.

The program for tonight’s concert emerges from my Introduction to Film Music seminar. Students have learned how to read and decipher cue sheets, to synchronize early scores to an image track (an often messy task), and to use historical encyclopedias of film music to arrange their own accompaniments. Their creativity and enthusiasm for these projects are reflected in each performance tonight.

Blake Howe  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Musicology  
Louisiana State University